

encourage the further collection and full interpretation of works now committed to memory which may otherwise be lost to future students of African history and culture.

The Papers of Sir Joseph Banks

THE Library of the Royal Geographical Society has recently acquired xerographic prints of two sets of papers which are of considerable importance for the history of African exploration. This has come about as the result of a search for papers bearing on the history of the ' Association for the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa ', which, founded in 1788, was amalgamated with the Royal Geographical Society in 1830. On that occasion, the R.G.S. apparently received none of the Association's documents. It seemed probable that a likely resting-place for them would be with the papers of Sir Joseph Banks, a founder of the Association and later President of the Royal Society from 1778 to 1820. His papers are now distributed among numerous libraries throughout the world. On the suggestion of Miss Mander Jones, formerly Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Sydney, an approach was made to Mr. Richard H. Dillon, Librarian of the Sutro Library, California State Library, San Francisco. Mr. Dillon very kindly allowed the section of Banks's papers in his Library dealing with African affairs to be microfilmed, and from these films enlarged prints have been made by the Rank-xerox process. These prints amount to approximately 900 sheets, including a few printed pamphlets, and include letters to and from Sir Joseph Banks on actual or potential African travellers from 1788 to 1820, documents concerning the organization, meetings, and finances of the Association, papers on the trading ventures of the African Company and the Sierra Leone Company, and memoranda and notes on a variety of subjects, such as the introduction of plants into Sierra Leone, possibilities of establishing communications and trade with the interior, and the appointment of consuls. It is hoped that these papers will shortly be thoroughly calendared.

A further line of inquiry led to the location of the three manuscript minute books of the Association in the University Library, Cambridge. These had formed part of the collection bequeathed to the Museum of Classical Archaeology by Colonel William Martin Leake, the last Honorary Secretary of the African Association. Through the good offices of Mr. H. R. Cheswick, University Librarian, the Library Syndics generously presented to the Royal Geographical Society a microfilm of these three folio volumes, which cover the complete lifetime of the African Association, and constitute the primary source for any assessment of its role in the history of the modern exploration of Africa. They are also of special interest to the Royal Geographical Society, since it was the latter which took over and widened, during the nineteenth century, the work of African exploration inaugurated by the Association in the closing decades of the eighteenth century. But for the outbreak of the Napoleonic wars, it is not going too far to suggest, the foundation of the R.G.S. might have been antedated by twenty years. The Society therefore plans to publish an annotated edition of these minute-books as a first step towards the inauguration of its own record series.

[Communicated by Mr. G. R. Crone]

The Journal of African History

The Journal of African History, the first number of which has recently appeared, is edited by R. A. Oliver and J. D. Fage, with an advisory editorial board composed of representatives from African, Belgian, British, French, and United States universities. The first issue of the *Journal* contains ten articles and a large number of book reviews.

Contributions may be in English or French and should be addressed to: The Editors, *Journal of African History*, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London,

London, W.C. 1. Subscriptions (30s. net per annual volume of two parts, post free) are payable in advance and may be sent to any bookseller or to the Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London, N.W. 1. Subscribers in the U.S.A. should send their subscriptions (\$5.50 per volume) to the Cambridge University Press, American Branch, 32 East 57th Street, New York 22, N.Y.

Création d'un Centre d'Études du Développement Économique et Social à Rabat

CRÉÉ conformément aux vœux et résolutions de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, le Centre d'Études du Développement économique et social (C.E.D.E.S.) fonctionne dans le cadre de l'Université Marocaine sous l'égide de la Faculté de Droit et des Sciences politiques et économiques de Rabat. Ce centre exerce son activité en relations étroites avec les Centres de Recherches des autres Universités. Il a été créé dans le but de promouvoir l'étude des problèmes économiques, administratifs et sociaux qui se posent aux pays en voie de développement et plus particulièrement au Maroc et d'aider à la diffusion des connaissances utiles à tout développement économique. Le diplôme qui est délivré à la fin de l'année d'étude après examen peut être utile aux candidats se destinant à des carrières internationales. Le Directeur du C.E.D.E.S. est M. le Professeur R. Passet, agrégé à la Faculté de Droit de Rabat.

Découvertes archéologiques au Cameroun

M. JEAN GAUTHIER, Boursier de l'Institut International Africain, qui séjourne chez les Fali de la Bénoué (Nord-Cameroun) où il poursuit des enquêtes ethnologiques, vient de faire des découvertes archéologiques importantes qui viennent à l'appui des travaux ethnographiques et ethno-historiques poursuivis autrefois dans la région.

Ce sont, en premier lieu, des figurines de terre cuite représentant des ancêtres, qui étaient déposées sur des autels familiaux où elles sont actuellement remplacées par des pierres, la confection de statuette étant tombée en désuétude. Cette récolte est particulièrement intéressante du fait qu'elle a été suivie par la découverte, dans le même village de Ngoutchoumi, de sépultures en urnes qui, par leur aspect, se rapprochent des jarres-cercueils des Sao du delta du Chari.

D'autre part, M. Gauthier et M. Lagrave, Directeur de l'École de Pitoa, ont mis au jour, à proximité de Garoua, d'autres sépultures en urnes qui sont attribuées aux Sao dont des groupes parvinrent dans la région de la Bénoué moyenne vers la fin du XVI^e siècle, ainsi que l'on sait.

*Micro-film edition of Africa*¹

Africa, vols. i-xxviii, 1928-58, is now available in a micro-film edition, and may be obtained from Micro Methods Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks. The price of a complete set is £90. Separate parts are priced as follows: Group 1 (1928-37) £30; Group 2 (1938-47) £30; Group 3 (1948-58) £33; per annum £3.

Micro-films of the *Journal of the Royal African Society* and Selected West African Parliamentary Papers are also available.

¹ See *Africa*, January 1960, p. 82.